

Remarks

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 6, 7, 10-20, 41, 42, 47-54, 56, 57, 59-62 and 64-77 are pending in the application and have been found to recite allowable subject matter.

Status of the Application

The Office Action mailed May 16, 2006 indicates that the application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters addressed by the amendments to the specification requested by this response. Accordingly, prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*.

Amendment(s) to the Specification

Paragraph 56 of the specification has been amended to include an embedded sequence identifier for the amino acid sequence “ValGlyGlyCys.” More specifically, a sequence identifier has been inserted after the sequence indicating that ValGlyGlyCys corresponds to positions 45-48 of SEQ ID NO: 5. Upon entry of this Amendment, the disclosure will be in full compliance with the sequence rules.

Paragraph 172 of the specification has been amended to delete the embedded hyperlink referring to the website for the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). Deletion of the embedded hyperlink bring the disclosure into compliance with the provisions of MPEP §608.01.

Conclusion

It is submitted that upon entry of this Amendment, the present application will be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested. In the event that there are any additional fees associated with this Amendment, they may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755, referencing attorney docket number AX0003.

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney, who is a practitioner associated with the customer number listed on the power of attorney (PTO/SB/80) included with this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

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